



caninefriends
pet therapy
Dogs helping people



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Unusual Canine Friends – making Friends

Supplied by Leanne Gibson, Secretary

Canine Friends has 600 pet therapy dogs visiting facilities in 30 regions. We thought we would share some of our more unusual dogs with you and why their owners think they make such great Canine Friends. If you would like to share your wonderful, unique, well-behaved dog with people in rest homes, hospitals, or hospices, check out our website, www.caninefriends.org.nz. 🐾



Phoenix, Akita

The Akita is a large, powerful dog breed that originated in Japan. The breed is known for its loyalty, courage, and independence. Akitas are typically white, brown, or brindle with a thick, double weather-resistant coat.

Dorothy tells us that Phoenix makes a good pet therapy dog because she is calm, sensitive, and empathetic. When not visiting, Phoenix loves nothing more than catching up with her human and doggy friends and family.

Arku, Anatolian Karabash

This ancient breed, native to Asia Minor, is also known as the Turkish Guard Dog. It protected flocks and served as a shepherd's companion.

Joanne says Arku is very calm and gentle and adores people. He's big enough to put his head on the bed and no-one has to bend down to pat him. He really loves his visits. When not visiting Arku loves playing tug with his wee 4kg Bichon/Jack Russell-X sister Kenai, chasing the bunnies off the back lawn, and swimming.



Rosie, Tibetan Spaniel

Blunt-faced and expressive, the Tibetan Spaniel is a small, active breed with a happy disposition and a playful personality.

Bex says that Rosie is two years old and has a lovely, sweet nature like a little old lady. When not visiting, she loves being out on the farm with the sheep.



Sasha, Borzoi

Native to Russia, Borzois are large hounds with deep chests, narrow limbs, and smooth, long fur. A dignified dog bred as regal members of the Russian aristocracy, the Borzoi has long been considered one of the most beautiful breeds. Borzois are affectionate and loyal family pets that possess both strength and style.

Doreen tells us that Sasha visits war veterans and being a tall dog it's easy for residents in bed to see her. They also visit the dementia ward where the residents look forward to seeing her. Sasha's favourite activities, when not visiting, are chasing rabbits and sleeping.

Bob, Swedish Vallhund

The long and low Swedish Vallhund, a Viking dog of ancient legend, is a smart and sociable herder with dense coat and boundless energy. These rugged cattle dogs are known for their zest for life, unique vocalizations, and cheerful demeanour.

When visiting, Helen says Bob just loves being the centre of attention and getting lots of pats and scratches. His favourite activity is eating followed by catching balls.



If you and your dog would like to join us, please visit: www.caninefriends.org.nz